

a providing device that provides the print data in said storage device;  
 such that, when the data registration request is received, said registration device registers the print data included in the received data registration request in said storage device, in association with authentication information for authenticating whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data, and said registration device transmits usage certificate data which includes the authentication information; and

when the data usage request which includes the authentication information is received, and when the authentication information in said storage device that corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request and the authentication information included in the received data usage request satisfy a predetermined relationship, said providing device transmits the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request.

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 2. (Amended) The print data management apparatus according to Claim 1,  
 said registration device registering the print data included in the received data registration request in said storage device, in association with usage count information which indicates the number of times the print data is permitted to be used; and

when a usage count in the usage count information in said storage device which corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request is greater than or equal to a predetermined number, said providing device transmitting the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request to a print terminal, and, when the usage count in the usage count information is less than the predetermined number, transmission of the print data is prohibited.

3. (Amended) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1,  
 the usage certificate data further including a network address that uniquely specifies the location of the apparatus on a network to which the apparatus is connected.

4. (Amended) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1, the usage certificate data further including a network address that uniquely specifies, on a network, the storage location of a program that transmits the data usage request which includes the authentication information to the apparatus, the program being stored in the network.

5. (Amended) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1, when a network address is included in the data registration request, said registration device transmitting the usage certificate data to a destination specified by the network address, and, when no network address is included in the data registration request, said registration device transmitting the usage certificate data to the sender of the data registration request.

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6. (Amended) The print data management apparatus according to claim 1, when a network address is included in the data usage request, said providing device transmitting the print data to a destination specified by the network address, and, when no network address is included in the data usage request, said providing device transmitting the print data to the sender of the data usage request.

7. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein a print data management program to be applied to the print data management apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:

a program for causing a computer to perform processing implemented by the registration device that registers print data in the storage device and processing implemented by the providing device that provides the print data in said storage device;

such that, when a data registration request is received, said registration device registers the print data included in the received data registration request in said storage device, in association with authentication information that authenticates whether or not a user

is eligible to use the print data, and said registration device transmits usage certificate data which includes the authentication information; and

when a data usage request which includes the authentication information is received, and when the authentication information in said storage device which corresponds to the print data relating to the received data usage request and the authentication information included in the received data usage request satisfy a predetermined relationship, said providing device transmits the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request.

8. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein usage certificate data to be transmitted by the print data management apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, comprising:

a program for storing authentication information that authenticates, by said print data management apparatus, whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data and a network address that uniquely specifies, on a network, the storage location of a program for transmitting a data usage request that includes the authentication information to said print data management apparatus, the program being stored in the network.

9. (Amended) A method of using print data by a computer system, comprising:  
providing print data with a provider, including: registering the print data in a storage device in association with authentication information that authenticates whether or not a user is eligible to use the print data; and transmitting usage certificate information that includes the authentication information to the user of the print data;

with a user, receiving the usage certificate data; and transmitting a data usage request which includes the authentication information; and

the providing step further including receiving the data usage request; and transmitting the print data in said storage device relating to the received data usage request